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Claims

What is claimed is:

1   1. In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network with
2   user access via a plurality of data processor controlled
3   interactive receiving display stations for displaying
4   received Web documents, transmitted from sources on the
5   Web, a system for offering for sale to a purchaser at a
6   receiving display station a computer system with a
7   plurality of components, each optimized for said
8   purchaser's needs comprising:
9   means for prompting said purchaser to make a
10 sequence of a plurality of interactive data entries on
11 said display station defining the values of a respective
12 set of attributes selected by said purchaser for each of
13 said components;
14   means for searching on the Web for sources of
15 components having attributes satisfying said defined
16 values;
17   means for prompting said purchaser to make a
18 sequence of interactive data entries, on said display
19 station, defining the values of a set of attributes
20 selected by said purchaser for the overall computer
21 system;
22   means for determining a computer system optimized to
23 purchaser selected values of the attributes of each of
24 said components from said Web sources reconciled with the
25 attribute values selected by the purchaser for the
26 overall computer system; and
27   means for offering said optimized computer system
28 for sale to said purchaser on said display station.

1 2. The Web system of claim 1 wherein:
2   said purchaser is a manufacturer producing a
3 quantity of offered computer systems; and
4   a quantity of each of said components is to be used
5 in the manufacture of said quantity of said offered
6 computer systems.

1 3. The Web system of claim 1 wherein at least one of
2 said set of attributes for the overall computer system
3 has values limited by industry standards.

1 4. The Web system of claim 1 wherein at least one of
2 said set of attributes for the overall computer system
3 has values limited by laws.

1 5. The Web system of claim 4 wherein said laws limiting
2 said values are environmental laws.

1 6. The Web system of claim 1 wherein at least one of
2 said set of attributes for the overall computer system
3 has values limited by overall resources available for the
4 overall computer system.

1 7. The Web system of claim 2 wherein at least one of
2 said set of attributes for at least one of said plurality
3 of components has values limited by a quality of the
4 supplier of said component.

1   8.   In a Web communication network with user access via a
2   plurality of data processor controlled interactive
3   receiving display stations for displaying received Web
4   documents, transmitted from sources on the Web, a method
5   for offering for sale, to a purchaser at a receiving
6   display station, a computer system with a plurality of
7   components, each optimized for said purchaser's needs,
8   comprising the steps of:
9   prompting said purchaser to make a sequence of a
10   plurality of interactive data entries on said display
11   station defining the values of a respective set of
12   attributes selected by said purchaser for each of said
13   components;
14   searching on the Web for sources of components
15   having attributes satisfying said defined values;
16   prompting said purchaser to make a sequence of
17   interactive data entries on said display station,
18   defining the values of a set of attributes selected by
19   said purchaser for the overall computer system;
20   determining a computer system optimized to purchaser
21   selected values of the attributes of each of said
22   components from said Web sources reconciled with the
23   attribute values selected by the purchaser for the
24   overall computer system; and
25   offering said optimized computer system for sale to
26   said purchaser on said display station.

1   9.   The Web method of claim 8 wherein:
2   said purchaser is a manufacturer producing a
3   quantity of offered computer systems; and
4   a quantity of each of said components is to be used
5   in the manufacture of said quantity of said offered
6   computer systems.

1 10. The Web method of claim 8 wherein at least one of
2 said set of attributes for the overall computer system
3 has values limited by industry standards.

1 11. The Web method of claim 8 wherein at least one of
2 said set of attributes for the overall computer system
3 has values limited by laws.

1 12. The Web method of claim 11 wherein said laws
2 limiting said values are environmental laws.

1 13. The Web method of claim 8 wherein at least one of
2 said set of attributes for the overall computer system
3 has values limited by overall resources available for the
4 overall computer system.

1 14. The Web method of claim 8 further including the step
2 of displaying an alert to said purchaser when attribute
3 values selected by said purchaser for components are not
4 reconcilable with attribute values selected by said
5 purchaser for the overall computer system.

1 15. The Web method of claim 9 wherein at least one of
2 said set of attributes for at least one of said plurality
3 of components has values limited by a quality of the
4 supplier of said component.

1 16. A computer program having code recorded on a
2 computer readable medium for offering for sale a computer
3 system with a plurality of components, each optimized for
4 a purchaser's needs in a Web communication network with
5 user access via a plurality of data processor controlled
6 interactive receiving display stations for displaying
7 received Web documents, transmitted from sources on the
8 Web, said computer program comprising:
9   means for prompting said purchaser to make a
10 sequence of a plurality of interactive data entries on
11 said display station defining the values of a respective
12 set of attributes selected by said purchaser for each of
13 said components;
14   means for searching on the Web for sources of
15 components having attributes satisfying said defined
16 values;
17   means for prompting said purchaser to make a
18 sequence of interactive data entries on said display
19 station, defining the values of a set of attributes
20 selected by said purchaser for the overall computer
21 system;
22   means for determining a computer system optimized to
23 purchaser selected values of the attributes of each of
24 said components from said Web sources reconciled with the
25 attribute values selected by the purchaser for the
26 overall computer system; and
27   means for offering said optimized computer system
28 for sale to said purchaser on said display station.

1   17. The computer program of claim 16 wherein:
2   said purchaser is a manufacturer producing a
3   quantity of offered computer systems; and
4   a quantity of each of said components is to be used
5   in the manufacture of said quantity of said offered
6   computer systems.

1   18. The computer program of claim 16 wherein at least
2   one of said set of attributes for the overall computer
3   system has values limited by industry standards.

1   19. The computer program of claim 16 wherein at least
2   one of said set of attributes for the overall computer
3   system has values limited by laws.

1   20. The computer program of claim 16 wherein at least
2   one of said set of attributes for the overall computer
3   system has values limited by overall resources available
4   for the overall computer system.

1   21. The computer program of claim 16 wherein at least
2   one of said set of attributes for at least one of said
3   plurality of components has values limited by a quality
4   of the supplier of said component.

1   22. The computer program of claim 16 further including
2   means for displaying an alert to said purchaser when
3   attribute values selected by said purchaser for
4   components are not reconcilable with attribute values
5   selected by said purchaser for the overall computer
6   system.